

Merton Baptist Church,  
Merton, Wisconsin.

Waukesha Co.

HABS No. 28-19.

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Photographs  
Written Historical and Descriptive Data.  
District No. 28.

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey.  
Alexander C. Guth, District Officer.  
1249 N. Franklin Place, Milwaukee, Wis.

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BAPTIST CHURCH  
Merton, Waukesha County  
Wisconsin

Owner: Baptist Church.

Date of Erection: Early 1840's.

Architect and Builder: No record.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: One and basement.

Materials of Construction: Wood.

Other Existing Records: See following pages.

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## BAPTIST CHURCH AT MERTON

The Baptist Church at Merton, Wisconsin, is located on the main highway leading through the town. It was built in the early 40's by a group of Vermonters who settled in this wilderness town in the late 30's. In this group of easterners there was many a craftsmen who had learned his trade midst the Colonial influence back home. With an eye and feeling for this work it does not seem strange that when these Vermonters built their new church that they should build it in the style of little Colonial meeting-houses of the east. Though it is a Baptist Church, it has all the ear<sup>marks</sup> of the typical Puritan meeting house. It is a rectangular little building, of just one room ~~in it~~, ~~and~~ heated with stoves, and without a basement. This, indeed, was a primitive meeting-place, but it has lasted all these years, and though it has been remodelled, it still has much of its old charm and beauty left.

The exterior facing of the sides and rear is of siding broken up with delicate pilasters. The front, too, has these pilasters, but in place of the siding there is flush boarding which gives the front a different accent. This ~~too~~ suggests the eastern work. One must look far in the northwest for a modest steeple which has as much interest as this one. The doorway with its wide architrave and its classical crossette at the top is reminiscent of ~~the~~ ~~and~~ Colonial work.

Today the building has lost some of its original

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identity. The majestic doorway is boarded up. The building has been raised, a Sunday School being placed below it. An off center entrance has been built. If ever a building was desecrated, this one has been. The building is in good condition and is still in use.

*Alvan C. Booth*  
District Officer.

*Received 1936, H.C.F.*